The ARRA survey for the report period of October 1 - December 31, 2010, will be released on December 9. The survey is _due_ December 16.

A couple of reminders…..

When completing the survey, the vendor reporting is cumulative. If a vendor payment was reported to DPI in a previous report period, that payment must be reported again in the current report period as well as any additional payments, regardless of dollar amount, made to these same vendors in subsequent reporting periods.

The FTE reporting (both employee and vendor) is quarter specific. The FTEs reported should only reflect the report period of October 1 – December 31, 2010. Please retain copies of the FTE calculator for audit purposes.

The FAQ document has been updated. Specifically items 1b, 1f, 1l, 4f, 5f and 5g. Please review these items before completing the survey.

Please make sure you print a copy of the completed survey for audit purposes. The print option will be available once the submit survey button is clicked. YOU MUST PRINT before exiting the browser window.

IDEA Third Party Grant Arrangements

The Special Education Team and the School Financial Services Team have issued a technical assistance document titled IDEA Third Party Grant Arrangements. It can be viewed at http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/pdf/idea-third-party-administration.pdf. It will be of special interest to CESAs, CCDEBs, and local educational agencies participating in cooperatives. It discusses legal requirements; fiscal accountability; and the mechanics of operating a third party administration system for IDEA grants. Specific topics addressed include:

- IDEA Subgrantees
- Grant Applications
- Contracts
- Accounting
- Reporting
- Auditing
- IDEA Fiscal Monitoring

The document includes a glossary of terms and a list of DPI contacts. Watch for the announcement of future webinars.

Frequently Asked Question: In light of the SLD Rule, may the costs (or a portion of the costs) of implementing a Response to Intervention system be charged to the IDEA entitlement grants?

Response to Intervention (RtI) is a process for achieving higher levels of academic and behavioral success for all students through high quality instruction, continuous review of student progress, and collaboration. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an RtI framework for behavior, therefore the same principles apply to both RtI and PBIS. RtI provides a system for identifying students who need additional academic or behavioral supports, and for providing interventions based on identified needs. Data collected as part of a district's RtI process may be used when considering if a student meets the Specific Learning Disability (SLD) criteria, consistent with PI 11.36(6).

Funds allocated under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) may only be used for the excess cost of providing special education and related services. General education interventions that are part of an LEA's RtI system are not an excess cost generated by providing services to students with disabilities and may not be funded with IDEA entitlement funds.

However, LEAs may set-aside a portion of their IDEA allocation to expend on coordinated early intervening services (CEIS). Funds set aside for CEIS may be used to pay for academic or behavioral interventions and progress monitoring of those interventions. CEIS funds may not be used for core curriculum or universal screening.

In addition, LEAs with Title I Schoolwide Schools may set-aside a portion of their IDEA funds to support an RtI system. Funds set-aside to support the Title Schoolwide school's RtI system may be used for any portion of the RtI system, including core curriculum and universal screening. LEAs that wish to set-aside IDEA funds for Title I Schoolwide schools must do this through the IDEA web-based budget application.